



## League of Women Voters Rochester Metro Area Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

The League does not support political parties or candidates, but does take stands on important issues after careful study and research.

Membership in the League is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Those under 16 can be associate members.

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## A Community Conversation: Breaking the Barriers to Voting in New York State

### PART 1: BARRIERS TO VOTER REGISTRATION



**Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm**

**Asbury First United Methodist Church  
1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY**

*Accessible Parking & Building Access in the Rear*

Preregister at [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) or 262-3730.

**Don't miss this!**

See page 3 for a full description of this important program.

## President's Corner

Here we are, in the midst of the busiest time of the League year – and how fortunate we are to have such good work to do!

By the time you read this, we'll have co-sponsored two Rochester Democratic Mayoral Primary Candidate Debates – one with the Rochester People's Climate Coalition and the other with WROC-TV8. Links to both will be available on our website. We also plan to co-sponsor a general election debate with WROC sometime in October – watch for details...

The Fair Election Practices Campaign and Vote411 are well underway, and early responses are strong. Mark your calendar for the FEPC Signing Ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building at noon on Thursday, September 7 – and be sure to check [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) often to see candidates' responses to the important questions we've asked of them. Note, too, those candidates who did not reply – that's a response in itself.

LWV-RMA will be hosting a new series of "Community Conversations" on Breaking the Barriers to Voting in NYS. The first two sessions in the series will be held September 18 and October 30, focusing on Voter Registration and Elections. More information can be found on page 3. Do note that the reason we're referring to these forums as a conversation is the format: we'll be sitting at tables in small groups, and after the experts make their presentations, we'll discuss what to do with this new knowledge. Our experts will be available for Q&A. Afterward, we'll ask the groups to share their insights, and you'll leave with resources to help you advocate for breaking the barriers to voting in NYS. Be sure to put this on your calendar!

Our Immigration Study Group is eager to help us expand our knowledge of the immigrant farmworkers who are so integral to sustaining life here in Western NY – but whose lives are often invisible. League members Dr. John (Lory) Ghertner and Barbara Deming have arranged for a showing of Nancy Ghertner's critically acclaimed film "After I Pick the Fruit" on October 15 at First Unitarian Church. The event will be co-sponsored by the church's Social Justice Committee. The film looks at the lives of several local women farmworkers and will be followed by a panel discussion of farmworkers, farmers and others. You'll be profoundly moved and well-informed by this event. A follow-up visit to a Wayne County farm is planned for spring.

In other news, we are delighted to announce that Kim Byers has been appointed to a one-year position on our Board of Directors.

Our chalk project, now in its 2nd year, continues to grow! On the weekends before the primary and the general elections, various partner groups will be spraying city sidewalks with chalk and stencils which say "Vote on Tuesday" – hopefully, it will inspire all those voters we've registered to Get Out And Vote!

There's more, of course, thanks to the amazing work of LWV-RMA members. Please read this edition of The Voter and watch your email for news, updates and invitations...

In League,

**Mary Hussong-Kallen**  
[president@lwv-rma.org](mailto:president@lwv-rma.org)



## New Member Update

Many of our newer members are finding their niches here in the League! Among them are:

- Cathleen Burnham, who will be welcoming new citizens and registering them to vote at Naturalization ceremonies,
- Beverly Kent, who will take over our Students Inside Albany program, and
- Jane Beck, who will be working on various activities helping us to better understand the challenges faced by the migrant farmworkers in our region.

Thanks to new Volunteer Coordinator Kim Byers' innovative work, many more members (new and not-so-new) have been volunteering for the many Voter Services events throughout the summer.

If you're looking for a way to be more active (an hour now and then or a committee/project), we can help! Please contact Kim at [lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com).

## A Community Conversation: Breaking the Barriers to Voting in New York State

**Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:00**

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue

Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

### **Presenters:**

**Jennifer Wilson**, *League of Women Voters of New York State, Program and Policy Director*

**Thomas F. Ferrarese**, *Monroe County Board of Elections, Commissioner*

**Douglas E. French**, *Monroe County Board of Elections, Commissioner*

New York State ranked 41st in voter turnout in 2016 with 57.3% of eligible voters casting ballots. Many voters opt not to vote for a variety of individual reasons but systemic barriers exist, especially in NYS.

LWV-RMA is planning a series of community discussions on the barriers to voting in New York State and possible solutions to them. We will focus on legislation passed or under consideration in the NYS Legislature.

The first forum in the series will focus on barriers to voter registration.

- First the presenters will have a conversation on the barriers to voter registration, the legislative process and specific bills that were introduced during the 2017 legislative session.
- This will be followed by a short Q&A period.
- Small groups will discuss the legislation providing everyone with an opportunity to speak.
- Each small group will report back to all participants.
- Summaries and resource materials will be emailed to all attendees.

### **The bills to be discussed are:**

#### **PERMANENT IN-STATE REGISTRATION (A3411/S1732A) (2017)**

This bill provides that the board of elections shall transfer a registration and enrollment of a voter to wherever they move in the state, even if the voter moves to a new county. It passed the Assembly and was sent to the Senate which referred the bill to the Elections Committee with no further action. Local members of the Assembly voted as follows: Bronson – Yes, Errigo – No, Gantt – ER, Hawley – No, Johns – No, Lawrence – No, Morelle – Yes.

#### **VOTER ENFRANCHISEMENT MODERNIZATION ACT (A5382/S5115) (2017)**

This bill provides for online voter registration. It passed the Assembly and was sent to the Senate which referred the bill to the Elections Committee with no further action. Local members of the Assembly voted as follows: Bronson – Yes, Errigo – No, Gantt – ER, Hawley – No, Johns – Yes, Lawrence – No, Morelle – Yes.

#### **ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION PROCESS (A6283/S5114) (2017)**

This bill requires that designated agencies ensure that agency applications include a voter registration application so when completing the agency application, the applicant is also registering to vote. The applicant can opt-out by checking a box. It passed the Assembly and was sent to the Senate which referred the bill to the Elections Committee with no further action. Local members of the Assembly voted as follows: Bronson – Yes, Errigo – No, Gantt – ER, Hawley – No, Johns – No, Lawrence – No, Morelle – Yes.

Please join us for what promises to be a stimulating evening. You can register for the forum on our website, [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) or by calling 585.262.3730.

## Reminder: Annual Dues Notices

Dues notices will be going out soon via email, and as usual, payment can be made online through Paypal, or by mailing your check to:

LWV-RMA  
PO Box 10576  
Rochester, NY 14610

Dues will remain the same as last year, and the due date is October 1. Please contact our new Membership co-chairs Barbara Kay ([bbskay@frontiernet.net](mailto:bbskay@frontiernet.net) or 244-9391) or Mary Garfield ([senecamary@gmail.com](mailto:senecamary@gmail.com) or 455-1100) if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

## Anti-Poverty Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

At United Way, 75 College St. Rochester

All are welcome.

Call Georgia at 585-787-9692 for more information.



# Women's Right to Vote



2017 marks the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in New York State. VoteTilla celebrated women's suffrage via a week-long celebration along the Erie Canal involving five canal boats that left Seneca Falls and traveled to Corn Hill Landing in Rochester with stops in villages along the way. At every stop there were speeches and lots of celebrating with many VIPs, including "Susan B. Anthony", "Frederick Douglas", "Carrie Chapman Catt", "Elizabeth Cady Stanton", and more. The week finished with a Women's Rights Parade. What an inspiring commemoration of the campaign for women's right to vote!

**More pictures from July VoteTilla and Women's Rights Parade can be found on the next page.**



## Monroe County Celebrates Women's Rights at VoteTilla

The VoteTilla Barge traveled along the Erie Canal in July to celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote.

Among the barge's stops were Faiport and Rochester's Corn Hill Landing where LWV-RMA members joined the festivities.



*Celebrant at Corn Hill Landing to greet VoteTilla.*



*Susan B. Anthony, aka Barbara Blaisdell, at LWV-RMA voter registration table.*



*Sheila Abeling and celebrant in period costume at LWV-RMA voter registration booth at Corn Hill.*



*Gin Busack setting up LWV-RMA voter registration booth at Corn Hill Landing. Laure Barr Photography.*



*Fairport VoteTilla ceremony at canal side.*



*Women's Rights Parade Lady Liberty contingent.*



*Mary Myers on parade float.*



*Sandy Frankel marching in Women's Rights parade.*



*Celebrants in front of LWV-RMA voter registration booth waiting at Corn Hill for the VoteTilla barge.*



*Susan B. Anthony, aka Barbara Blaisdell, and other Fairport participants in period costumes.*



*Shown in the front row are Lois Winterkorn, Gin Busack, and Neely Kelly at Cornhill Landing.*

*Photo credits for pages 4 & 5:*

*Fairport VoteTilla photos by Sheila Abeling.*

*Most Rochester VoteTilla and Women's Rights Parade photos by Elaine Schmidt and Judy Weinstein.*



## LWV-RMA Booth at Gay Pride Fest

Almost 130 groups marched in the Gay Pride Fest parade on July 15, and officials estimate that over 12,000 people cheered from the sidelines. LWV-RMA members Jane Beck, Rachel Brill, Gin Busack, Camille Clayton, Georgia DeGregorio, Yolanda Gavin, Barbara Grosh, Judy Sternberg, Judy Weinstein, and Lois Winterkorn, staffed a voter registration booth at the Festival.

*Pride Fest photos by Judy Weinstein*



*Gin Busack and Jane Beck registering voters*



*Gin Busack registering voter at Pride Fest*



*Gin Busack registering voter at Pride Fest*

## Heard in passing during VoteTilla

A DAR representative said that when the DAR congratulated Carrie Chapman Catt on succeeding Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Catt responded, "The difference between our organizations is that you celebrate history and we make history."



LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](http://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

**Democracy is not a  
spectator sport.  
Tag! You're It!**

## Our Neighbor Immigrant Farmworkers

Here in Western New York, we are dependent upon farm labor for our food, and, in many ways, our local economy. But what do we really know about the immigrant farmworkers who are so often in the news, and upon whom we depend?

Let's look in two ways. First, some demographics:\*

Farmworkers in this country	2,400,000
Undocumented farmworkers in this country	~1,200,000
Undocumented farmworkers in the Rochester region	?
H-2A (guest worker visa program) farmworkers in US:	~125,000
In the Rochester region	?
Deportations in 2016	76,124
From NYS in 2016	624
Deportations in 2012	407,821
Average wait time for immigration court	615 days
Deportations from this area	1,110
Criminal convictions	93
Terrorist convictions	0
Most common reason for deportation	Re-entry into US
Average salary of farmworker (2015)	\$17,000/year
Farmworkers needed to pick apples in Wayne County	8,000

Powerful numbers, telling a story of poverty, fear and uncertainty.

Let's look at another story – through a documentary film called “*After I Pick the Fruit*”, which follows the lives of five immigrant farmworker women who work in the fields of our region. It's a story with the sights and sounds of the people in the numbers above. This film was directed by League member Dr. John Ghertner's wife Nancy Ghertner. To view information about it, please visit <http://www.afteripickthefruit.com/directors-statement/>.

Join us on October 15 (time to be determined) at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 Winton Road South, to view this story behind the numbers. Look for more information in the next Voter and watch your email...

*\*All data are from the US Census, Economic Policy Institute, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, and US Department of Homeland Security. All data relate to 2016 except where noted.*

## HELP WANTED!

Are you the person we're looking for? We need help in the following roles:

- **Program Coordinator** – you'll work with the Board and sometimes with various League committees to schedule 6 interesting public forums each year. It's a wonderful way to use your great organizational skills and bring clarity and depth to the community's understanding of a wide variety of issues and topics.
- **Calendar Organizer** – you'll receive information on League events and post it to our online Google calendar. If you've checked our calendar lately, you know how badly you're needed! If you use an online calendar yourself, you have the skills – and there are no meetings to attend!

- **Webmaster** – this involves a substantial time commitment. You'll assist Judy Weinstein and Barbara Grosh in maintaining our website, and implementing creative updates.
- **Facebook and/or Twitter Manager** – if you use FB or Twitter, you know it's important to keep things updated. As with the online calendar, you'll be sent the info and we'll all be grateful to you for getting it from an mailbox to a social media website!

If any of these roles sounds as if it was designed just for you – or if you've been looking for a new challenge, please contact Kim Byers ([lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com)) or Mary Hussong-Kallen ([president@lwv-rma.org](mailto:president@lwv-rma.org)). Thank you!

## LWVNYS Convention 2017

The LWV-RMA was well-represented at the biennial LWVNYS Convention in Syracuse in June. Delegates Gin Busack, Georgia DeGregorio, Ida Holloran, Elaine Schmidt, and Judy Weinstein attended many of the workshops and participated in discussions on topics ranging from how to envision the future of the League to the decision on support for a YES vote on this November's ballot question on whether NYS should hold a Constitutional Convention. A summary of the activities and business transacted can be found at [www.lwvny.org/convention.html](http://www.lwvny.org/convention.html), and is well worth taking time to review.

Meanwhile, our own delegates' insights and impressions are shared below.

Convention remembrances:

### from Judy Weinstein

- The cooperative spirit of League members. LWVNYS President Dare Thompson and the parliamentarian were always patient with those who had problems with parliamentary procedures and helped delegates frame motions that would accomplish what they intended.
- Generosity of LWV members. When I asked delegates to donate unused toiletries to the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking for the Care Packs it gives to human trafficking victims and homeless youth, I received eight pounds of soap, shampoo, etc.
- With the focus on the Centennial of women's suffrage in NY, I thought how delighted Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Matilda Joselyn Gage would be to see all the smart, knowledgeable, dedicated women continuing their work.

### from Ida Holloran

The main thing I learned from convention is that leadership recognizes we must modernize rapidly

else become irrelevant in our fast paced world. Gone are the days that allow for lengthy study and hand wringing word choice when robust scholarship and expertise are available online. The best advice given was to maintain a laser like focus on our core mission of voter engagement and voter rights. NYS and US League continue to explore the best organizational structure for us, any change in which will require legal advice and action. They do this so that local chapters do not incur related expenditures of time and money.

### from Elaine Schmidt

I always feel good when I see the informed and intelligent women of the League gathered together. It is heartening to be around women who have a cause and seriously pursue it. The large assemblies and small groups at tables were friendly and so knowledgeable!

### from Gin Busack

This is what I heard and embraced:

- In order to remain an effective and relevant force in the future our LWV from the smallest MAL through National needs to be nimble and open to change while focusing on our core issues. We need to be even more inclusive. We need to explore the use of technology and social media to spread our message. We need to continue community outreach, collaborating with other organizations with messages compatible to ours.
- There were many excellent workshops to help us along the path -- among them: The League's Future, Getting Out the Youth Vote, Social Media and Apps for Engaging New Members and the Public, Becoming a Player in Your Community, and Turning New Members Into Leaders.
- Finally, this convention allowed us to commune and learn from each other; to see how our sister Leagues are facing the challenges of our shared future.

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs is a local group whose mission is "to keep alive the memory and great work of Susan B. Anthony and to pledge an active and protective interest in the maintenance of the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House." All League members are invited to attend monthly luncheons with speakers, but reservations are required:

**September 14** - Silver Tea at the Susan B Anthony Carriage House (1:00 P.M.); Speaker: Christine Ridarsky, City Historical Services Consultant (Rochester Public Library)

**October 12** - Luncheon at Lillian's Restaurant (11:00 A.M.); Speaker: Pam Weaver, NYS Deputy Executive Director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

**November 9** - Luncheon at Rick's Prime Rib Restaurant (11:00 A.M.); Speaker: Greg Eishenhut, Local Government Liaison for Mercy Flight

Please contact Elena Wilkonski at 265-4167 or [ewilkonski@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ewilkonski@rochester.rr.com) to reserve your place!



## Naturalization ceremonies in July and August

Pictured are new U.S. citizens during their naturalization ceremonies – on July 4 (outside views) at the Genesee Country Village and Museum and July 18 (indoor) in the Federal Building courtroom.

*Photos by Sheila Abeling.*



## Sunshine Corner

### HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 6/21/2017 OBSERVED BY GREGORY BRUMFIELD

Two residents spoke on the Town's consideration of installing a public water line on East River Road to accommodate the possibility of a 10-year contract for the Monroe County Fair to be held next to the Department of Transportation in Rush. A grant would pay 2/3 of the cost, with the remaining cost of about \$56,400 to be paid by three homeowners who currently have well water. Both homeowners who spoke have well water and do not want to connect to the waterline. They questioned why Rush should not pay the balance of the project since the town would reap the reward. They also noted that the developer providing 2/3 of the cost would seem to benefit from the waterline by placing his pending housing tract on the corner of East River Road and Rush-Henrietta Townline Road. Supervisor Moore responded that when Rush originally discussed this waterline with Henrietta, he was informed that the grant would cover 100% of the cost. The Town did not vote on the resolution because further discussion was needed.

The Town passed a resolution to limit trash pickup to three days a week since some neighborhoods have trash being picked up in their neighborhoods five days a week.

A resolution was passed by the Town Board revising the Henrietta Zoning Code to specify where solar energy systems are permitted.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.henrietta.org>)

### HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 7/19/2017 PER THE TOWN WEBSITE

A public hearing on trash collection was held. One speaker suggested parceling out the town to collectors so that each refuse company would have a specific area to work in.

A grant application submitted by RIT to the NYS Environmental Protection Fund was approved by the town. RIT proposes a recreational trail on its campus.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.henrietta.org>)

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 6/13/2017 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Speakers during the Public Forum once again pleaded for increased financial support for Child Protective Services. The current caseload is 29 cases per worker. The national standard is 12 cases per worker. Workers have a high burnout rate and are



leaving for higher-paying jobs to support their own families. One person asked how many county residents would pay a little more in taxes to protect the children.

The Legislature dedicated the Legislative Chambers to Joanne Van Zandt, former county legislator and first woman president of the Legislature.

A grant from NYS Department of Health was accepted for the Rabies Reimbursement Program. Legislator Mark Muoio noted that there has been a recent 50% increase in rabies in Monroe County and surrounding areas.

The Legislature passed a resolution that reduced the assessment of property that was damaged by flooding by certain percentages based on the amount of damage sustained. The County operating budget was adjusted by \$500,000 to cover the reductions in assessment.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov>)

### WEBSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP 5/25/2017 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

The Sandbar Grant of \$118,000, to aid in the improvement and expansion of a small town park along the lake and bay, was discussed.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.ci.webster.ny.us>)

**Elaine Schmidt**  
Government Committee  
[e.schmidt8@frontier.com](mailto:e.schmidt8@frontier.com)

**Democracy is not a  
spectator sport.  
Tag! You're It!**



## Naturalization

2017 has brought more Naturalization ceremonies to Monroe County than the League has experienced in the past. On April 13, Sheila Abeling welcomed 55 new citizens at the Rochester City Hall. On April 26, Marcia Eisenberg met with 50 more candidates at the Federal Building. On April 27, Joan Rosenthal represented the League at an oath ceremony held at the Minerva Deland School in Fairport.

May was an exceptionally busy month with five ceremonies. Our wonderful volunteers have been very busy! The May 8 ceremony was held at RIT with Marcia Eisenberg, Sheila Abeling and Kim Wightman attending for the League. On May 11, Lois Winterkorn welcomed 52 candidates for citizenship at the Monroe County Office Building. On May 12, Katherine Smith represented the League at a new venue, Laurelton Pardee Middle School in Irondequoit. Mimi Wilson participated in the May 16 oath ceremony at the Federal Building with 57 candidates. One more ceremony was held on May 19 at the Federal Building with Sheila Abeling welcoming 51 new citizens.

On June 8, Beth Feldman witnessed 50 more new citizens as they became citizens at the Monroe County Office Building. Marcia Eisenberg and Cathleen Burnam welcomed new citizens and helped register them to vote on June 15 in the Federal Building.

A special thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who attend these ceremonies! All LWV-RMA members are welcome to attend these momentous events. No two ceremonies are the same and each one is heart-warming and inspiring to observe. Please check the League website ([lww-rma.org](http://lww-rma.org)) for the schedule of ceremonies.

### Sheila Abeling

*Naturalization and Election Services*  
[sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com)



## Election Services:

The 2017 Primary Election is scheduled for September 12. Each year the LWV-RMA helps the Monroe County Board of Elections open absentee ballots. This activity is a fundraiser for us so we need your help. We will be opening absentee ballots on September 12 at 9:00 P.M. at the Board of Elections Service Center, 2595 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road.

With enough volunteers, we should be finished within a couple of hours. Thank you in advance!! Please contact Sheila Abeling at 223-6819 or [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com).

## Fair Election Practices Campaign Kicks Off

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area announced the start of the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) for the 2017 electoral season on August 15, 2017.

TIAR and LWV/RMA encourage all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. Our organizations believe that positive campaigns that address important issues are winning campaigns. The FEPC provides all candidates the opportunity to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to publicly commit to running positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The names of all candidates who sign the Pledge will be listed on the League of Women Voters' website.

The Fair Election Practices Committee has a non-voting Chairperson and four voting members made up of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. The Committee will accept properly filed complaints regarding candidates who signed the Pledge beginning on August 14th and continue to hear complaints until November 6th, the day before Election Day. Hearing decisions will be released to the media and posted on the League of Women Voters' website.

TIAR and LWV/RMA will hold a joint press conference and signing ceremony on the Thursday after Labor Day, September 7th, at noon in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building recognizing those who have signed The Pledge. For more information about the Fair Campaign Pledge and the FEPC, please visit the League of Women Voters' website.

### Kris Rogers

*Fair Election Practices Campaign*  
[krogers8@rochester.rr.com](mailto:krogers8@rochester.rr.com)

## Voter Services

For an “off year” election season, your **Voter Services Team** has been busy this summer reminding folks that **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN OFF YEAR ELECTION** and that this year is incredibly important for determining local representation.

Working with our partner organizations at a series of different events, we carried our message throughout our community. La Cumbre has allowed us to take part in their Government Committee meetings and to join with them at the Puerto Rican Fest and the Puerto Rican Pageant in addition to registration efforts at St. Simon's Tower, TOPS Supermarket and the Public Market Puerto Rican Night. The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley welcomed us back to the 2017 PRIDE FEST and invited us to participate in the National Unity & Pride Rally and Memorial PULSE Service. Our meetings with Trillium brought speaking engagements for Barbara Grosh at its Consumer Committee and a SAGE Luncheon. We were also privileged to be a part of the VOTE-TILLA events, with a welcoming tent at the Corn Hill Landing and tables at the ROC Women's Music Fest and the Saturday celebration at the Susan B. Anthony House. We rounded the weekend out with an invitation from the AAUW to be a part of their picnic celebration. Working with the Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, we were able to be a part of the Clarissa Street Reunion; and joining with the Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Clarissa Street Reunion, joined in at the Anthony Jordan Front Porch Health Fair and St. John Baptist Church Festival. We were also pleased to be invited by the Rochester City School District to bring our wares to their start-of-the-school-year “Stay Strong” event. We have also begun our round of orientation sessions at our local colleges and universities, starting with the University of Rochester Orientation EXPO.

With the summer season drawing to an end, we still have a very active Fall schedule with plenty of open slots for our volunteers to staff tables and spread the word.

- 9/13/17 Rochester Institute of Technology Fall Service Day
- 9/14/17 NCJW Panel “We Can Change the World”
- 9/14/17 Project Homeless Connect
- 9/15/17 Constitution Day at SUNY Brockport
- 9/24/17 Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence—Memorial Concert at First Universalist Church

Several other events are under discussion the Anthony Jordan Health Center, Monroe Community College and Rochester Institute of Technology. We also expect to begin the civics presentations through our city high

school initiative for the 2017-18 school year.

A very bright note for Voter Services has been the introduction of “Sign-Up Genius” by our new member Kim Byers. Kim has agreed to serve as the League's Volunteer Coordinator. As you are all aware, Voter Services is absolutely dependent on our loyal and hardworking volunteers. I mean this sincerely – *You are the ones who make us visible in the community and allow us to achieve our goal of Making Democracy Work for All a possibility.* The truth is that while we have had a successful season, there have been several invitations that we regretfully were unable to accept due to the need for additional volunteers. Kim and Sign-Up Genius have made it easier than ever to volunteer. You will receive invitations to participate in our events – a simple click is all that is needed on your part.

**Gin Busack**

Voter Services

[ginbusack@aol.com](mailto:ginbusack@aol.com)

## Paid Family Leave

LWV-RMA spent years hosting educational forums, appearing on local news shows and lobbying elected officials in support of the 2015 Paid Family Leave Act. Starting in 2018, New York's 6.4 million private sector workers, women and men, will be able to take paid leave to bond with a new child, care for a seriously ill family member, or address needs related to a family member's military deployment.

Paid Family Leave is an insurance program paid for by an employee. It provides workers with 8 weeks of leave at 50% of their average weekly wage up to a cap.

Positive Outcomes of PFL are expected to be:

- Increased employee morale, job satisfaction and loyalty;
- Increased involvement of men in family caregiving responsibilities;
- Small businesses will be able to compete for employees on a more even playing field with big business;
- Low wage and middle income workers and their families will be helped in avoiding hardship when they need to be out of work.

LWVNYS worked diligently for years with our statewide coalition group in support of this program since we support economic policy that reflect the reality of our changing workforce in the 21st century. Beginning in January we will monitor its implementation. For more information go the website at [www.ny.gov/paidfamilyleave](http://www.ny.gov/paidfamilyleave).

**Katherine Smith**

[kathysmith292@gmail.com](mailto:kathysmith292@gmail.com)



## LWV/RMA Book Club Selections for 2017 - 18

The Book Club met to select the books that we will be reading this year and scheduled our discussions. It took time to narrow down all the recommendations to the final list of seven books which include both fiction and nonfiction and a variety of topics. All of our meetings are held at 1:00 P.M. at The Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street.

Our books for the 2017-2018 program year are -



DATE	BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR
Thursday, September 14	<i>Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right</i>	Arlie Russell Hochschild
Tuesday, October 10	<i>The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water</i>	Charles Fishman
Tuesday, November 1	<i>The Generals</i>	Thomas Ricks
Tuesday, January 9	<i>The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women</i>	Kate Moore
Tuesday, February 13	<i>The Jungle</i>	Upton Sinclair

We will also be meeting on Tuesday, March 13, and Tuesday, April 10. The books we will be discussing on those dates are:

**The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice** by Patricia Bell-Scott; and

**Sex Wars: A Novel of Gilded Age New York** by Marge Piercy.

We haven't yet assigned the two books to their months.

We hope you'll join us, whether for one book or the whole year.

**Judy Weinstein**

Book Club

[j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com](mailto:j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com)





## Coming Events!



### September

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 7 FEPC Signing Ceremony, (12:00 P.M., the Atrium in Monroe County Office Building)
- 14 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 14 Book Club (see page 13)
- 15 Naturalization Ceremony (9:30 A.M., The College at Brockport)
- 18 Breaking the Barriers to Voting in NYS: Voter Registration (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 28 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)

### October

- 6 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 10 Book Club (see page 13)
- 12 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 12 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 15 Forum: Nancy Ghertner's critically acclaimed film "After I Pick the Fruit" (Time TBA, 1st Unitarian Church)
- 26 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 30 Forum: Breaking the Barriers to Voting in NYS: Elections (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)

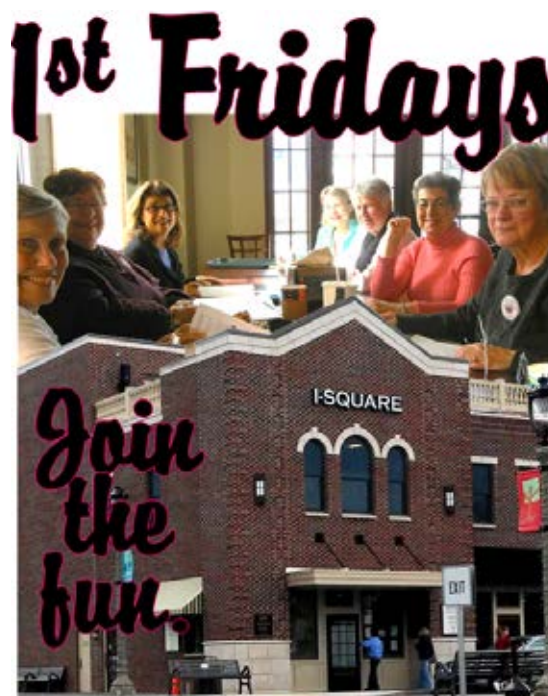
***Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!***

### Don't miss First Fridays with LWV-RMA

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue, Irondequoit, NY 14617

September 1, 2017	February 2, 2018
October 6, 2017	March 2, 2018
November 3, 2017	April 6, 2018
December 1, 2017	May 4, 2018
January 5, 2018	June 1, 2018

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can! There's a place at the table for you!



Board of Directors meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

Naturalization ceremonies are usually held on second Thursday of each month. Check League website for updated info each month.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at [www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
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# Rochester VOTER

A Monthly Publication of the  
League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area

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**OCTOBER VOTER  
DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15!**



## Goals of the League of Women Voters:

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA  
Editor, Judy Wadsworth  
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

**SPEAK UP, BE HEARD,**  
IF YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME WAY  
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